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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/557,796	04/25/2000	James Hoch	252/123	8950

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EXAMINER

LACOURCIERE, KAREN A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1635

DATE MAILED: 04/07/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

8M.

**Office Action Summary****Application No.**

09/557,796

**Applicant(s)**

HOCH ET AL.

**Examiner**

Karen A. Lacourciere

**Art Unit**

1635

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --****Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 99, 100, 103-105, 107, 132 and 134 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 99, 100, 104, 107, 132 and 134 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 103 and 105 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on January 14, 2004 has been entered.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 99, 100, 104, 107, and 134 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Diorio et al.

Diorio et al. disclose E. coli strains which comprise recombinant genes that convert a source compound to a target compound (for example, recombinant trp) and further comprises a second recombinant nucleic acid that produces a detectable signal, including growth in the presence of arsenic, in the presence of the target compound wherein the second recombinant nucleic acid comprises a reporter gene (lacZ) under control of an inducible promoter (arsenic inducible promoter) and wherein the inducer is distinct from the target. Therefore, Diorio anticipates claims 99, 100, 104, 107 and 134.

Claims 99, 100, 107, 132 and 134 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Srikantha et al. Srikantha et al. discloses strains of *C. albicans* which comprise recombinant LUC genes which act as reporter genes by producing a luminescent detectable signal and wherein these cells also comprise recombinant genes that transform a source compound into a target compound (for example, *ade2* recombinant genes). These cells are disclosed as having the luminescent reporter genes under control of promoters which are induced by the target (for example, the white phase specific promoter) or by inducers distinct from the target (for example, GAL1 inducible promoter). Therefore, Srikantha et al. anticipates claims 99, 100, 107, 132 and 134.

Claims 99, 100, 104, 107 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lee et al.

Lee et al. disclose *E. coli* which have been infected with nucleic acid molecules from two different recombinantly produced phage. One contains genes that produce proteins needed to produce a repressor protein needed to convert the second phage to a lysogenic phage. The other phage produces genes under control of an inducible promoter that act as a reporter gene to produce luminescence. Therefore, Lee et al. anticipates claims 99, 100, 104, and 107.

### ***Claim Objections***

Claims 103 and 105 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Karen A. Lacourciere whose telephone number is (571) 272-0759. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 7:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John L. LeGuyader can be reached on (571) 272-0760. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Karen A. Lacourciere  
April 5, 2004

  
KAREN A. LACOURCIERE, PH.D.  
PRIMARY EXAMINER